THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) In an expanding organization like the Coast Guard, procurement of equipment and vessels and provision of requisite manpower is an ongoing process. The Coast Guard has been adequately equipped to face the challenges of national security and the role assigned to it by Government. The Government has provided technologically advanced Air Cushion Vessels, Jet propelled Fast Patrol Vessels and Pollution Control Vessels for effective and efficient surveillance by the Coast Guard. Advanced communication systems like Global Maritime Distress and Security System, High Frequency transreceivers and Very Low Frequency receivers are being procured. New Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels and Offshore Patrol Vessels under procurement will be fitted with digital microprocessor based integrated Platform Management System for effective monitoring and centralized control of the platform.

Jangi Inam

1792. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice of bravery award known as Jangi Inam given to the soldiers still continues;

(b) if so, the amount given per month as the bravery award;

(c) whether there is a proposal to increase the amount given to the dependents of soldiers who took part in first and second World Wars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Jangi Inam is not a bravery award. It was given by the British Government during the First and the Second World Wars for distinguished service. Loyalty to the British Government was also a consideration for which these awards were given. While no new Jangi awards are being given, monetary allowances are still being given to the legal heirs of the erstwhile Jangi Inam Awardees.

(b) Rs. 100/- per month.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply to (c) above.

One Rank One Pension for Ex-Servicemen

†1793. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is extreme anomaly in the pensions of officers and employees of lower level ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that ex-servicemen have been demanding constantly to implement the principle of "one rank one pension" to eliminate the anomaly and to bring equality in the pension;

(c) since when Government propose to make effective the principle of "one rank one pension"; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. K. HANDIQUE): (a) There is no anomaly in pension of officers and employees of lower level ex-servicemen since both the categories have distinct terms of employment, pay, weightage in qualifying service, retirement age and method of computation of their pension and comparison across the same is not justified as they are not similarly placed.

(b) The ex-servicemen have been demanding constantly to implement the principle of "one rank one pension", but the same is not related to the perceived anomaly in pension of officers and lower level ex-servicemen.

(c) and (d) A Group of Ministers has been constituted to look into the matter.

Indian Troops in Foreign Peace Keeping Force

1794. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.